

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|               |                             |                  |                  |
|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Applicant(s): | John Boyland et al.         | Confirmation No. | 8433             |
| Serial No.:   | 10/759,877                  | Group Art Unit:  | 3677             |
| Filed:        | January 16, 2004            | Examiner:        | Jeffrey A. SHARP |
| For:          | HOOK NUT CONNECTOR ASSEMBLY |                  |                  |

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop **RCE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action dated December 18, 2006 and the Advisory Action of April 3, 2007, the Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks. An RCE and a Petition and Fee for a one-month extension are enclosed.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.